

Kanji in Daily Japanese Life

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Introduction

Japanese has a reputation for being a difficult language. Especially the writing system. But there is no need to panic. Although kanji characters may look indecipherable at first glance, with a little guidance and practice, you will soon recognize them with no more trouble than you recognize emoji. Kanji are, after all, in a way, just ancient emoji. The trick is to have a little story, or mnemonic, to connect each picture with its meaning. The more crazy and outlandish your mnemonics are, the more memorable they will be! This book presents the most essential kanji you will encounter when you come to Japan in ten themes based on daily life.

Note 1: In writing this book, I have sometimes made use of a kanji's real historical background, and at other times I have simply made up a story that I thought would be easy for the reader to remember. I highly recommend studying the true etymology of kanji as a later step, and there are many excellent books, but for the purposes of memorizing kanji and making progress rather than getting bogged down, it is often more productive to just make up a convenient story than worry too much over historical accuracy.

Note 2: I provide pronunciations (readings) of the kanji, but in many cases a single kanji can be pronounced in several different ways depending on the word it is used in. It is not much use learning all the readings of a kanji in isolation as the key thing is knowing when to use which reading. So, a good first step is to memorize the meaning and one “anchor” reading, then add the other readings as you study more vocab.

Let's get cracking!

Lesson 1: Numbers and Money

First, let's tackle the numbers and money-related kanji, not least because the numbers 1, 2, 3 are the easiest three of all.

一 • 二 • 三

Ichi, Ni, San / One, Two, Three

The Romans put them vertically, the ancient Chinese put them horizontally.

四

Yon (or Shi) / Four

A picture of a karate fist punching towards you. Four knuckles.

五

Go / Five

三 plus 二 (rotated 90 degrees)

六

Roku / Six

A top hat and long hair. Clearly a “Roku” star guitarist with six platinum albums. (You can draw in the dark glasses.)

七

Nana (or Shichi) / Seven

If you look carefully you will see a half-peeled baNANA.

八

Hachi / Eight

The spindly legs of a spider HATCHling.

九

Kyu / Nine

Ten but with one hooked off.

十

Ju / Ten

The Romans put their X diagonally, the Chinese put it squarely.

半ぶん

Hanbun / Half

You can see a one-yen (¥) coin karate-chopped in half.

百

Hyaku / Hundred

Let's build this one up. We will see 日 Sun in lesson 3 (Kanji always make circles into squares, so this is the Sun with a sunspot). 白 is white (lesson 7) – a little sunbeam of white light coming out from the Sun. Then 百 is 白 with 一. When you are a hundred you will be down to one white hair!

千

Sen / Thousand

Ten with an extra dash to designate a thousand. Think of the extra dash as the comma in 1,000.

万

Man / Ten thousand

You will see this kanji everywhere in Japan so you will soon recognize it. The largest banknote in Japan is a ¥10,000, an ichi-man-en. 一万円. You could picture it as an unusual Oriental side table with banknotes piled on it.

円

En / Yen

The slot in the vending machine where you put your 百円 coin.

安い

Yasui / Cheap

To break this down we need 女 meaning woman. A very feminine looking character comprising く (ku) ノ (no) 一 (ichi). You may or may not know that a “ku-no-ichi” is a female ninja! And writing those three elements in order is the proper way to write this character, which many beginners find tricky. So returning to 安い we see our female ninja under a rooftop. 安 also means safety, so perhaps our deadly female ninja is locked away in a prison cell, so that we are safe. Cheap is an extended meaning of safe as in “nothing to worry about at this cheap price.”

高い

Takai / Tall, High, Expensive

To finish off the lesson, here we have a nice clear emoji of a tall pagoda tower, in its day the tallest thing that local people would have ever seen. Takai also means expensive, as in a “high price.”

Congratulations! You just mastered 十七 kanji!

Lesson 2: At the Train Station

In this lesson we will look at kanji you might encounter at a train station.

入口・出口

Iriguchi, Deguchi / Entrance, Exit

You will see these signs in any Japanese train station. Yes they generally have English signs in Japan too, but sometimes, right at the critical moment, the English will be missing!

Luckily, it's easy to learn these kanji.

Starting with the second part (guchi) – this is the kanji for mouth – a simple picture of an open mouth. Just as we talk about the “mouth of a river”, guchi (or kuchi when used on its own) means an opening.

For 入, meaning enter, picture a person walking quickly to the right with their hair flowing back as they enter.

For 出, meaning exit, this is made of two 山 (yama, mountain, see Lesson 8), being a stylized picture of a mountain range. So clearly the exit path must be between the two mountains.

北・東・南・西

Kita, Higashi, Minami, Nishi / North, East, South, West

The exits to a train station are commonly labeled with these kanji.

北 – Here we see two people sat down with their backs to each other. North is the direction you want to face away from.

東 – This is a truly beautiful kanji when you see it. The Sun 日 rising at dawn through a Tree 木.

南 – What do we have here? 冎 buried under a cross 十. So, the treasure must be buried under the grave in the South! Aztec gold in South America perhaps?

西 – West is the fourth compass direction, so here we see 四 together with the horizon. Looks like the sun has already set behind it.

駅

Eki / Station

Now we are getting a little more complex! But nothing to fear. On the left we have 馬, which if you tilt the book to the right you will clearly see is just a picture of a horse eating some grass, with four legs and a proud mane. And 尺 looks like a capital R. Perhaps this kanji is supposed to say JR (Japan Rail) but there is a horse

tied up on the left covering the J, ready to pull the next stagecoach.

お店

Omise / Shop

In 店 we can see a picture of a small counter with a canopy over the top, the shopkeeper, and the box you are trying to buy on the counter.

電車

Densha / Train

電 means electricity. It's very simple. A raincloud 雨 (see the drops of rain!) with lightning shooting down from it.

For 車 we need to imagine we are looking down from above. A chariot with two wooden wheels and a large axle. In modern times, a car.

So Electric Carriage – a train.

切符

Kippu / Ticket

切 Here we see 七 meaning seven on the left and 刀, a picture of a samurai sword (you have to imagine the handle and the tip). So Seven Samurai, meaning, conveniently, “to cut”

符 At the top we have some compressed 竹, which is the kanji for bamboo. We can easily see two strong bamboo shoots with leaves at the top. At the bottom we have 付 showing a compressed version of person (人) on the left and 寸 on the right. 寸 is a picture of measuring with a set square. You can see the mark being made as the worker marks out the measurement. So, combined we have a picture of a person measuring out bamboo. After measuring, we cut, and we can use this slice of bamboo as our train ticket!

番線

Bansen / Platform

For 番, on the top we have 米 with an extra dash. 米 means rice. We can see a tree 木 with two nice rice ears already growing, and in this kanji there is the extra dash of rice too. Below we have a field 田 (actually four rice paddies with dividing paths). The best rice is the 1st pickings from the harvest, and 一番 (ichiban)

means “1st” or “best” (we can continue with 二番 (niban)、三番 (sanban)).

For 線, on the left we have 糸, which if you squint a little, is a picture of yarn on a bobbin. On the right we have 白, our friend the sunbeam “white”, and 水, a very common character meaning water (a snowflake made of a frozen raindrop perhaps). Putting “thread > white > water” together we can imagine a builder’s chalk line, used to make convenient straight lines at a building site, then washed off with water. So this kanji means “line”. And returning to our train station, we have the 1st line, 2nd line, 3rd line, telling us which platform to board our train. It is also worth knowing that the word ホーム (horm) (a Japanese version of “form” from the English word platform) is also commonly used to mean “platform”.

Ticket and Platform are quite a lot to digest, but take your time.

Well done you now know 三十二 kanji! If you can handle kanji like 符 and 線 you can handle any kanji at all!

Lesson 3: Times and Dates

In Lesson 3 we will cover kanji used to describe times and dates.

午

Go / Noon

We can see a 十 with two extra strokes, making 12.

午前・午後・正午

Gozen, Gogo, Shogo / A.M., P.M., (Precise) Noon

前 means “before”. Here we see some horns at the top, 月 which normally represents a picture of the moon (facing down like the character for horse and with a dash for a crater) but can also mean “meat/flesh” – it does look a little like a steak. Then we have 刀 which is a picture of a knife cutting. So horns > meat > cut = before. Perhaps the horns of the cow are all that’s left of the animal that was there “before” it was cut into meat. 前 on its own is pronounced mae, but in the compound 午前 it takes the reading ZEN for Gozen.

後 means “after”. On the left we have a compressed version of 行. 行 is the character that means “Go” and we can see a stylized crossroads. On the right we have the top part of our thread 糸 and a cross. So Go + Crossed Thread = After. So when we are weaving on a loom we “go” out with the thread then cross it back “afterwards.”

正 means “Correct”. At the bottom we see a footprint 止 (a little stylized but we see the rough shape of a foot with toes) and this foot is lined up behind a 一 line. We say in English “toe the line” to mean to “act correctly”. So 正午 Shogo gives us the full word to mean (precisely) “noon.”

年・月・週・日

Nen, Getsu, Shu, Hi / Year, Month, Week, Day

日 and 月 we have already seen. Japanese uses the same character for Sun and Day, and for Moon and Month. Pretty simple. 年, year, adds two extra strokes to 午. 12 months now rather than 12 hours. In 週 we see a “path” to the left and what could be a page of a calendar with Saturday 土 (see below) and a box to write our appointments in. So a week is the recurring path our calendar takes through the week to the weekend.

時間・分・秒

Jikan, Fun, Byo / Hour (or time), Minute, Second

時 has 日 on the left and 寺 on the right. 寺 means temple and we can roughly see a picture of a sacred shrine with an offering of fruit placed at the bottom. So, we place our offering at the temple at a specific hour every day.

間 is a lovely character. 門 is clearly a pair of old gates. And we can see that these gates are slightly open and the 日 is shining through the gap. So, this character means gap or period. Together we have a “period of time,” or an hour.

分 means minute. We can see a samurai sword 刀 cutting a wooden beam in half. So 分 means split, just as an hour is split into 60 divisions. Note that 分かる means “to understand”. This may not seem related to minute! But the idea is that when you understand something you separate the various elements of an issue so that you see it clearly and understand it.

秒 On the left we have a 木 with an extra dash – this is a rice plant. On the right we have 少 which means a few. We will see this one later but is made of small 小 (a symbolic representation of a small baby in swaddling) with an extra dash. So perhaps we are counting 秒 seconds with a few small grains of rice.

月・火・水・木・金・土・日

Getsu, Ka, Sui, Moku, Kin, Do, Nichi / Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun

月 we have seen – Moon, or Month, or Mo(o)nday

火 is a picture of a fire with sparks. Tuesday comes from “Tiw's Day”, with “Tiw” being the Germanic God of War. So, Tuesday is represented by the God of War (Mars in Rome) – represented by fire.

水 we have seen – water. “Woden's Day” is the Germanic version of “Mercury's Day” and Mercury was the God of commerce and travel. Which would have meant travel by water in olden times.

木 we have seen – tree. “Thor's Day” the God of Thunder. This tree has to watch out for lightning strikes from Thor.

金 means money or gold. 王 means King, looking much like the chess piece. This is the full figure of 王 with his crown and two scepters – showing off his money. Friday is Freya's Day/Venus day in English and Venus is the goddess of prosperity. (Friday is also payday!)

土 means earth or ground. A sapling growing up from the soil. Saturn's day in English and Saturn is the god of harvest, the bounty of the earth.

日 we are now familiar with. Sun-day is an easy one!

一月 ~ 十二月

Ichigatsu ~ Junigastu / January ~ December

Happily, the twelve months of the year are very easy in Japanese. Just “month 1, month 2 .. month 12” with 月 pronounced as “gatsu”.

今月・何月・毎月

Kongetsu, Nangatsu, Maitsuki / This month, Which month, Every month

Here we see some of the joys of irregular pronunciation in kanji. In these three phrases 月 takes a different reading each time. Don't worry, the most common kanji are the worst offenders and most kanji are more regular.

今 shows a cuckoo clock with a ticking pendulum to mean “now”

何 shows a person with a gaping mouth demanding “What?”

毎 shows a version of 母 with a crown. The Goddess who is the source of Every-thing.

Note that we can form many other words by combining the other time kanji with 今・何・毎

Great stuff! That's another 二十二 kanji to bring the total to 五十四. If you pick up a Japanese newspaper (or website) now you should already be able to recognize quite a few of the kanji you see.

Lesson 4: People

In lesson 4 we will encounter kanji related to people and parts of the body.

母・父

Haha (Okasan), Chichi (Otosan) / Mother, Father

For 母 we turn the page to the right again and can clearly see the motherly breasts ready to nurse her infant.

For 父 we can see the kind eyes and moustache of the father.

子

Ko / Child

A picture of a baby with arms outstretched.

男・女

Dan (Otoko), Jo (Onna) / Male, Female

田 we have seen as field. 力 means power/strength and looks roughly like a strongman's bicep. So, the strength in the field – males.

女 we already know as ku-no-ichi.

日本人・外国人

Nihonjin, Gaikokujin / Japanese person, International person

日本 is Nihon – Japan. 本 means “origin/root” and shows a dash to emphasize the root of the 木. Note this character is also used for a book – the origin of knowledge. So “The origin of the Sun” or “The Land of the Rising Sun”. Person 人 we have already seen.

外 means Outside/Other. On the left we see a turtle shell and on the right we see a crack on the “Outside” of it. 国 shows an outer border enclosing 王 with an extra dash. Here he has taken off his crown and is just holding one scepter. So, the King within his borders – the Kingdom, or country. 外国人 is a “person from another country.”

友だち

Tomodachi / Friend

Here we see two hands, one coming from the top left, one coming from the bottom right, shaking hands in the universal sign of friendship.

体

Karada / Body

The root 本 of a person 人 – the body.

耳

Mimi / Ear

A stylized picture of an ear.

目

Me / Eye

Turn the page right and you can see an eye with a pupil.

手

Te / Hand

Somehow this picture of a hand has six fingers, but it is still clearly a hand.

足

Ashi / foot (leg)

We saw the footprint 止 before. Now we add a kneecap above it to show a leg.

十五 more kanji completed for a total of 六十九! One more lesson to reach the halfway point.

Lesson 5: At School

In this lesson we will look at kanji related to school life.

学校

Gakko / School

学 shows us a 子 with a splendid tasseled hat – it must be graduation day!

校 shows us a 木 wooden building where 父 puts on his hat to teach.

先生

Sensei / Teacher (also used for doctors)

生 means “life”. We can see a healthy growing plant, signifying life itself.

In 先 we see the top part of “life” with what looks like the roots below. 先 means previous. The roots come previous to the plant.

Together we see someone who “lived previously” to you – your Sensei.

日本語・英語

Nihongo, Eigo / Japanese language, English language

日本 we already know.

語 shows 言 on the left. This is a mouth 口 with sound waves coming from it – meaning to speak. On the right we have five 五 mouths. So if multiple people speak, it must be a language.

英 shows “flowers” at the top (two little flowers coming out of the ground). Below we have 央. This means “center” and looks perhaps like an arrow hitting the center of a target. So, Flowers + Center = England. Well, the Chelsea Flower Show is one of the central events in British life.

名前

Namae / Name

前 we had in lesson 3 meaning “before”. 名 shows a turtle and a mouth. Perhaps we can imagine an old turtle teacher calling out the names for class attendance before teaching the lesson.

会社

Kaisha / Company

After graduating you will probably join a company.

会 means “meet” showing a lid “meeting” its container.

社 means shrine. The left side is the altar with an offering on top and the right side is the sacred ground around it.

So a company is a shrine to meetings. Cynical but sounds about right.

九 more added in this lesson to hit 七十八.

Lesson 6: Verbs

In lesson 6 we will learn some key verbs.

食べる・飲む

Taberu, Nomu / Eat, Drink

良 means “good”, made up of 白 and the bottom part of 衣 (clothes — looks somewhat like someone wearing a traditional folded Japanese robe). White robes – as worn by a good priest. We **eat** at the place (see the roof) with good food. 欠 means “lack”. We see a person with a flat, bald head, lacking hair. **Drinks** are like food that lacks the need to chew.

行く・来る

Iku, Kuru / Go, Come

The crossroads from lesson 3. 米 is rice from lesson 2 and also means America (where a lot of rice is grown). U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry **came** to Japan in 1853 in his seaman’s hat and changed the country forever.

立つ・座る

Tatsu, Suwaru / Stand, Sit

Stand—a person standing tall with chest puffed out.

Sit— We see two people **sitting** on raised seats inside a shelter.

言う・話す・聞く

Iu, Hanasu, Kiku / Say, Talk, Listen

A mouth **speaking** and we can see the soundwaves. 舌 is a tongue – we can see a pierced tongue sticking out of the mouth. So when you push soundwaves out of your mouth and also use your tongue, you are **talking**. Listen is another delightful one with our ancient gates 門. This time a courtesan has her ear 耳 to the gates and is listening to the Emperor’s juicy gossip!

買う・売る

Kau, Uru / Buy, Sell

貝 is a shell – the legs are spider legs unlike the curved legs of 見る. Perhaps a shell crab. A careful eye is looking over this shell and considering whether to **buy** it.

For sell, we see a samurai 士 (like Earth 土 but the central line is longer than the bottom line. Perhaps a chess piece of a samurai), and this samurai is lifting up his kilt to show his hairy legs!! That's one way to **sell** yourself to the ladies!

読む・書く

Yomu, Kaku / Read, Write

Everyone is talking 言 about the samurai's bold sales technique and **reading** all about the shocking event in the newspapers.

In **write** we see a delightful direct image of a hand holding a brush and making a mark on a piece of paper.

見る

Miru / See (Look)

A great big eye 目 on a pair of hairy legs and this strange creature is **looking** right at us.

休む

Yasumu / Rest

A nice image of a person sitting against a tree and **resting**.

十五 kanji added. 九十三 completed and almost at the 百-kanji mark.

Lesson 7: Adjectives

Already at lesson 7! Now let's look at some common adjectives.

中・上・下

Naka, Ue, Shita / Center, Up, Down

Center shows a box to highlight the center part. Up shows the top part of 中 with an additional dash for emphasis, likewise down.

新しい・古い

Atarashii, Furui / New, Old

立 木 and an image of an ax. The woodsman stands with puffed out chest to impress his **new** girl as he chops down the tree with one strike.

古 shows us a vivid picture of an **old** gravestone.

右・左

Migi, Hidari / Right, Left

The hand you eat with.

The hand you hold the girder with when you cut it.

大きい・小さい

Oukii, Chiisai / Big, Small

A man with arms outstretched. "The fish was thi~s **big**!"

A **small** baby in swaddling.

暑い・寒い

Atsui, Samui / Hot, Cold

The hot sun above, the ground is so hot there is a heat haze like a mirage with the sun reflected below.

A house with only two lumps of coal and the whole family is sitting shivering.

多い・少ない

Ooi, Sukunai / Many, Few

Baby turtles racing to the sea. We see only two but there are **many**.

A small baby with a distinctive diagonal birthmark. Such babies are **few**.

白・黒

Shiro, Kuro / White, Black

White we know from lesson 1.

黒 looks a lot like a computer. If you set fire to your computer (see the flames below) because you are sick of it, you will soon have a **blackened** computer.

A fun factoid is that black-and-white films are called white-and-black films in Japanese! Well, why not?

赤・黄・青

Aka, Kiiri, Ao / Red, Yellow, Blue

Earth 土 and flames. You can see vast expanses of **red**-flame colored soil if you fly over Australia.

To mix **yellow** paint you need two flowers, one spoon of earth from a field and eight spider legs.

Blue plants grow on the moon apparently!

短い・長い

Mijikai, Nagai / Short, Long

An arrow 矢 and beans 豆 (see the lidded pot on the hob, cooking up the beans). “My arrows were too **short** so I have to eat beans for dinner.”

Clothes 衣 and what could be long flowing hair at the top. So, an old man with a **long** flowing robe and **long**

flowing hair.

一九 kanji added and we are now at 百十二 in total!

Lesson 8: Nature

In lesson 8 we will cover kanji related to nature and animals.

木・林・森

Ki, Hayashi, Mori / Tree, Forest, Wood

This is a lovely example of what you can do with an ideogram-based language. One tree, two large, grand trees for forest, and three smaller trees for a wood.

川

Kawa / River

A nice easy picture of a river flowing from above.

海

Umi / Sea

Here we have our Goddess “Every” again from lesson 3 but this time with three splashes of water. Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink when you are at sea.

花

Hana / Flower

We have seen the top part before showing two flowers sticking out of the ground. Now we add 化, a useful kanji meaning “change.” It shows the before-and-after of a person 人 and a second image of them when they have changed into an old man (sitting, unable to stand, reaching out for help). Adding change to the flowers emphasizes that flowers constantly change with the seasons.

空

Sora / Sky

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No it's superman flying above the girders of half-built New York skyscrapers in the 1950s. You will probably see this kanji most in the word 空港 Kuukou/Airport. 港 (port) shows splashes of water and churning swirls in the wake of a two-masted ship leaving port.

雲

Kumo / Cloud

We saw 雨 showing a raincloud before, here for emphasis we add a cumulon**im(u)**bus. (If you know your katakana).

星

Hoshi / Star

Life 生 on the Sun? Well, out of all the stars in the universe I guess some must have life.

銀河

Ginga / Galaxy

This one is lovely so I must include it! First we have the kanji for silver (almost as good 良 as gold 金) and then an alternative kanji for river showing splashes of water and perhaps the view from behind as a boat enters under a bridge. So “silver river” to mean a galaxy, taken directly from seeing the Milky Way on a clear night.

魚

Sakana / Fish

In the category of “obvious kanji.” The head, the body, the tail. Any type of fish will have this character on the left. Have fun trying to learn all the types of fish on a sushi menu!

犬

Inu / Dog

Turn the page to the left and you will see a dog with wagging tail and flapping ears.

猫

Neko / Cat

The left part is often seen in animal kanji. It looks a little like a squashed 犬. Then we have flowers and a field. Even the ancient Chinese suffered from cats digging up the flowers in their gardens.

鳥

Tori / Bird

Again, turn the page to the left to see the bird with its small beak and extravagant tail. A nice bonus kanji is island 島 (shima) showing a bird on a mountaintop.

牛

Ushi / Cow

This looks a little like 午 noon from lesson 3. The difference is the line sticking up at the top. I see it as a cow's skull hanging on the wall. A little Picasso-esque.

十六 kanji added for a total of 百二十八! Only two more lessons now!

Lesson 9: Towns and Cities

In lesson 9 we will cover some kanji related to towns and cities, including the kanji for Kyoto, Tokyo, and Osaka.

道

Michi / Road

Here we see the horns and head of a cow and an image of a path. So we are taking our cow down the road to market.

家

Ie / House

The top part is easy – the roof of the house. What's inside? A pig (the full character adds meat 豚). You can see his four legs if you tilt the page to the left. “This house is literally a pigsty!”

町

Machi / Town

You are walking in the fields and reach a signpost telling you the town is 1 mile away.

村

Mura / Village

The left side we know as tree/wooden. The right side we saw in 切符 as someone using a set square. So, we use the wood to build the village.

区

Ku / Ward

Here is your voting ballot going in the box as you vote in your local ward elections.

県

Ken, Prefecture

Here we see an eye on a pedestal. Perhaps each prefecture has installed a Sauron-style tower to keep an eye on the local people.

京都

Kyoto

京 (capital) shows a typical Asian red paper lantern. In 都 (metropolis) we have part of hot 暑い and what could be a pair of sunglasses. A geisha walking past a string of paper lanterns wearing sunglasses in the heat could be the perfect image of Kyoto.

東京

Tokyo

East we know from lesson 2. Tokyo is the East Capital, coming after Kyoto historically.

大阪

Osaka

Osakans are so big (大)-hearted and friendly (友) they give their sunglasses to whoever needs them.

十一 kanji added for a total of 百三十九. Last spurt!

Lesson 10: Weather Report

天気

Tenki, Weather

天 means heaven. The line at the top represents the Heavens—one-above anything “big” on earth.

気 means “spirit” and shows the white steam coming off rice on the boil (the X is a simplification of 米).

So, here we see weather as the spirit/mood of the heavens.

傘

Kasa, Umbrella

A nice clear picture of an umbrella stand like the ones you see outside convenience stores in Japan, with four umbrellas waiting to be used.

晴れ

Hare, Sunny

Sun and blue (sky).

曇り

Kumori, Cloudy

We saw 雲 earlier. In cloudy we add the sun above the clouds trying to break through

五 kanji for a final total of 百四十四.

And if we count these additional kanji that we touched on:

刀竹糸止門王田力良衣欠米舌貝矢豆化港島豚

the grand total is 百六十四!

That is a very significant dent into all the kanji you need to know to be able to read Japanese.

Conclusion

If you made it this far, congratulations! You have mastered not only many kanji, but also, hopefully, banished your fear of kanji and absorbed the techniques needed to learn the remaining ones.

I hope this little book might play some small part in your journey of discovery into the Japanese language and Japanese culture.

お疲れ！

Further Reading

Kenneth G. Henshall: A Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters

James Heisig: Remembering the Kanji

And the excellent companion website <https://kanji.koohii.com/>